

Message Text

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ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 ISO-00 EUR-12 SS-15 PA-02 USIE-00
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O R 111512Z DEC 76 ZFF 6

FM USDEL SECRETARY IN LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 SECTO 32064

FOR S/PRS FROM FUNSETH

E.O. LL652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: STATEMENT OF FAREWELL TO SECRETARY KISSINGER
BY NATO SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT OF FAREWELL TO SECRETARY
KISSINGER BY NATO SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS AT NAC,
DECEMBER 10, 1976 (TEXT SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO
PRESS BUT SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE PUT OUT AS STATE
DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE):

QUOTE

WE HAVE DEALT WITH SEVERAL IMPORTANT ALLIANCE ISSUES
DURING THE LAST DAY AND A HALF. BUT THERE HAS BEEN ONE
THOUGHT WHICH HAS APPEARED AGAIN AND AGAIN - THAT THIS
IS THE LAST TIME THAT THE COUNCIL HAS DR. HENRY KISSINGER
HERE AS HIS COUNTRY'S REPRESENTATIVE. THIS WILL NOT BE
AN EASY IDEA TO GET USED TO.

MR. SECRETARY, FOR MANY YEARS YOU HAVE BEEN, AFTER
THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF, THE MAIN ARCHITECT OF AMERICAN
DIPLOMACY. YOU HAVE HAD AN ENORMOUS INFLUENCE ON THE
SHAPE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF OUR TIME YOU HAVE
BEEN ESSENTIALLY A MAN OF ACTION - A MAN WHO HAS MADE
THINGS HAPPEN - A MAN WHO HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN BRING-
ING PEACE AND SECURITY TO MANY PARTS OF A VERY TROUBLED
WORLD.

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BUT IT IS NOT SO MUCH YOUR OVERALL CAREER THAT I WOULD
LIKE TO ADDRESS, MR. SECRETARY; RATHER IT IS YOUR
RELATIONSHIP WITH US HERE IN THE ATLANTIC COMMUNITY.
THAT IT HAS BEEN SO SUCCESSFUL IS PERHAPS DUE IN PART
TO THE FACT THAT YOU ARE A MAN OF BOTH EUROPE AND AMERICA
WITH A VERY SPECIAL AND DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF THE
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO. EVEN IN DIFFICULT MOMENTS,
WE COULD BE SURE THAT YOU UNDERSTOOD OUR WISHES AND
ASPIRATIONS, AS WELL AS THE COMPLEX POLITICAL AND
ECONOMIC REALITIES OF OUR VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

YESTERDAY YOU STRESSED THAT THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE
IS THE BEDROCK OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY. MR.
SECRETARY, YOU HAVE GIVEN REPEATED PROOF OF THAT BY
THE INITIATIVE AND CREATIVITY WITH WHICH YOU HAVE
DEFENDED THE INTERESTS OF OUR ALLIANCE. AS A LEADING
MEMBER OF THE PAST TWO AMERICAN ADMINISTRATIONS, YOU
HAVE RESOLUTELY AND SUCCESSFULLY OPPOSED ANY UNILATERAL
WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN FORCES FROM EUROPE OR ANY WEAK-
ENING OF YOUR COUNTRY'S COMMITMENT TO OUR DEFENSE. BUT
THE ALLIANCE IS MUCH MORE THAN ITS MILITARY STRENGTH.
EQUALLY IMPORTANT IS THE COMBINED POLITICAL WILL TO
RESPOND TO THE CHALLENGES WHICH FACE US. YOU HAVE
WORKED TIRELESSLY TO GIVE LIFE TO THE ESSENTIAL
CONCEPT OF FULL CONSULTATION AMONG ALLIES ON THE BASIS
OF EQUALITY. AND YOU HAVE PRACTISED WHAT YOU HAVE

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PREACHED AS YOUR PERSONAL CONSULTATIONS WITH US HERE ON
MANY OCCASIONS HAVE DEMONSTRATED.

WE HAVE HAD OUR DIFFICULT TIMES, BUT I BELIEVE THAT
WE HAVE COME THROUGH THEM RE-VITALIZED. THE COMMIT-
MENT TO THE ALLIANCE IS GREATER NOW AMONG OUR GOVERN-
MENTS AND AMONG OUR PEOPLES THAN IT HAS BEEN FOR MANY
YEARS. AND THIS IS LARGELY DUE TO THE POSITIVE AND
INSPIRING LEADERSHIP WHICH YOU HAVE GIVEN US.

I SEE NO HARM TO YOUR WELL-KNOWN MODESTY IF FOR A
MOMENT I ADD MY CONTRIBUTION TO THE WAVE OF PRAISE WHICH
IS SHOWERING DOWN ON YOU FROM ALL SIDES.

WE IN THE ALLIANCE HAVE BEEN PRIVILEGED TO WORK WITH
A MAN TO WHOM THE ADJECTIVE "GREAT" CAN BE APPLIED
WITH SINCERITY. MR. SECRETARY, I AM CONVINCED THAT
YOU WILL STAND IN HISTORY AS ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE FOREIGN
MINISTERS OF OUR CENTURY. YOU HAVE UNDERSTOOD
THE UNDERLYING REALITIES OF OUR TIME. YOU HAVE KNOWN
HOW TO INFLUENCE THOSE REALITIES. YOUR GOALS HAVE BEEN
THE GOALS NOT ONLY OF THE FREE WORLD, BUT OF ORDINARY
MEN AND WOMEN EVERYWHERE - PEACE, SECURITY AND
PROSPERITY. AND IN THIS TASK YOU HAVE BROUGHT YOUR
EXTRAORDINARY ENERGY AND OUTSTANDING BRILLIANCE - AS
WELL AS A WELL-KNOWN REFUSAL TO TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER.
TO WORK WITH YOU HAS BEEN AN EXPERIENCE WHICH HAS
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INSPIRED US ALL.

FOR ME PERSONALLY YOUR DEPARTURE IS INDEED A SAD EVENT.
I HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF HAVING KNOWN YOU FOR MANY
YEARS, IN FACT FOR MORE THAN 15 YEARS. YOUR WARM
PERSONALITY, YOUR NEAT SENSE OF HUMOR, HAVE ALWAYS
ENCHANTED ME AND YOUR EXCEPTIONAL POWER OF ANALYSIS
HAS COMMANDED MY GREATEST RESPECT. I HOPE WE WILL
REMAIN IN TOUCH.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, AS WE SAY GOODBYE TO THIS
GREAT SECRETARY OF STATE, MAY I SUMMARIZE OUR COMMON
FEELING BY QUOTING SHAKESPEARE: "HE WAS A MAN, TAKE
HIM FOR ALL IN ALL, I SHALL NOT LOOK UPON HIS LIKE
AGAIN." UNQUOTE
KISSINGER

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